(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(d) whether Government have received any suggestions in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Pursuant to the Supreme Court Judgement of October 06, 1993 read with their Advisory Opinion of October 28,1998, the process of initiation of proposal for appointment of judges of a High Court lies with the Chief Justice of that High Court. The Government has, however, been requesting the Chief Justices of the High Courts, Chief Ministers and the Governors of the States, from time to time, to initiate proposals for filling up of the present and vacancies anticipated during the next six months.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Annual report of courts

2106. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
DR. T SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the long pending demand for enhancement of transparency in the functioning of the courts, the judiciary has finally agreed for introduction of a system for publication of annual reports of various courts across the country;

(b) if so, whether this decision was taken during the recent conference held with Chief Minister and Chief Justice of India;

(c) if so, whether this decision would help in revealing judicial statistics;

(d) if so, to what extent the annual reports would be helpful for smooth functioning of judiciary; and

(e) by when such reports would be published?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) and (b) During the Conference of Chief Ministers of States and Chief Justices of High Courts held on 18th September, 2004, it has been resolved that the court system should publish Annual

reports of achievements and use of resources.

(c) and (d) The annual report is expected to contain judicial statistics as well as other information relating to Administration of Justice. This would provide the necessary insight to the performance of courts on disposal of cases and facilitating monitoring and valuation.

(e) A copy of the resolution has been forwarded to all High Courts. No time frame has been fixed in this regard.

Mineral exploration in Kerala

2107. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study or exploration has been undertaken in Kerala for possibilities of the mining of any ore metals or minerals;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any proposal is pending for mining of beach sand minerals in private sector in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir. Mineral exploration studies have been carried out in Kerala by Geological Survey of India (GSI), State Directorate of Mining and Geology (DMG), Indian Rare Earths Ltd. (IREL), Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD) of Department of Atomic Energy.

(b) During the last three years GSI has undertaken investigation for sedimentary and residual clay deposits in Nileswaram in Kasargod district. Tentative reserve of 25 million tonnes of combined residual and sendimentary clay has been estimated. Gold investigation has been carried out in Palakkad district and in Punnapuzha-Chaliyarpuzha sector of Malappuram district. Minor incidences of gold are recorded.

AMD has established a potential of Teri sand and heavy beach sand minerals. IREL and Kerala Mining Mineral Limited (KMML) has conducted study for beach sand in Kerala. DMG has been conducting studies for clay and silica sand.